THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Rs. 12.18 crore is due to Maharashtra Government from Railways on account of deployment of State Police Force. the details of outstanding from 1992-93 zone-wise and year-wise is as under:—

(Figures in crore of Rs.)

Year	C. Railway	W. Railway	S.E. Rly.	S.C. Rly.	Total
1992-93		0.02			0.02
1993-94		0.72			0.72
1994-95		0.84	0.11	0.37	1.32
1995-96	0.72	3.43	0.27	0.43	4.85
1996-97	4.43	0.03	0.17	0.49	5.12
1997-98	—	—	—	0.15	0.15
Total:	5.15	5.04	0.55	1.44	12.18

(b) The reasons attributed to the delay in payment are as under:—

(i) Non-submission of Audit Certificate by the State Government of Maharashtra.

(ii) Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Government of Maharashtra without the approval of Railway Administration.

Railways have standing instruction to liquidate all clearly admissible claims.

Diversion of Kollam-Trivandrum rail line

1209. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the work of doubling the Kollam-Trivandrum rail line is completed;

(b) if not, how much of the work is still left unfinished; and

(c) by what time this doubling work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of 65 kms., the doubling for 58 kms. has yet to be completed so far. The doubling of the whole section is likely to be completed by Dec.,'99 subject to availability of resources.

Increase in freight rates

1210. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had increased freight rates recently;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the resoruces are likely to be mobilised by this hike;

(d) whether this hike alongwith the hike made in Railway Budget for 1997-98 will have adverse effect on freight traffic;

(e) if not, reasons, therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to increase the share of freight movement by Railways.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Adjustment of freight rate of selected commodities has been made w.e.f. 15.10.97. The freight rate of coal has been increased by an average of 3.6 percent for all distances. In addition, the freight rate of (i) Chemical Manures, (ii) Hydrogenated oils, (iii) Oil Vegetables Refined, (iv) Fruits & Vegetables, (v) Edible Oils, (vi) Livestock, (vii) Organic Manure, (viii) Fodder other than oil cake, (ix) Oil Seeds, (x) Kerosene, (xi) LPG, (xii) Sugar and (xiii) Foodgrains

were revised by partially withdrawing concession enjoyed by these commodities in the past.

(c) The estimate of additional revenue to be generated from these revisions is Rs. 526 crores per annum.

(d) and (e) Since the increase is marginal, diversion of Rail traffic to Road is not expected.

(f) The following measures have been taken to increase the freight traffic:

(1) Prompt and adequate supply of wagons.

(2) Diversion of piecemeal traffic from Road to Rail through Containerised service;

(3) Leasing out of Luggage van/ Parcel van space traffic;

(4) Transportation of automobiles in modified coaches, and

(5) Own Your Wagon Scheme introduced to encourage private participation in ownership of wagons.

Tender for Manufacturing of Wagons

1211. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently floated tenders for manufacture of wagons by private parties and if so, the terms and conditions fixed for parties found suitable for manufacture of wagons;

(b) whether the process has since been completed and if so, what has been the outcome of tenders and the names of manufacture so finalised;

(c) whether the manufacture has since began and if so, the quota of manufacture so fixed, party-wise;

(d) what is the total requirement of wagons in the country and the actual production as on date; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the tenders have been floated dispite strong protest from different quarters and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Tender has been floated for both private and public sector parties. Terms & conditions for manufacture of wagons will be as per tender documents.

(b) and (c) No. Sir.

(d) Requirement of wagons depend upon transport needs & availability of resources. For 97-98, target of procurement of 26000 four wheeler units of wagons (including 5000 from 'Own-your-wagon-scheme' & Build-own-lease and transfer-scheme) has been fixed by Railways. Upto Oct. '97, 16172.5 wagons in terms of four wheeler units have been manufactured in 97-98. Plans for procurement of wagons for 98-99 has not yet been finalised.

(e) There have been some criticism about the invitation of tenders for procurement of wagons. However, procurement of wagons through tenders has brought savings to Railways, in past and it would improve financial position of the Railways.

Undertakings of Ministry of Railways

1212. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of public sector undertaking which are coming under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways;

(b) whether the Ministry examines in details the annual reports of such undertakings and the audit reports and the comments of the auditors; and

(c) if so, what are the serious audit objections pointed out in the undertakings reports and what actions were taken by Government in respect of such reports for 1995-96 and 1996-97, undertaking-wise?